

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A polypeptide comprising more than one S3 peptides.
2. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the S3 peptides are in tandem repeat.
3. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 [[or 2]] comprising 2 to 10 S3 peptides.
4. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 [[or 2]] comprising two S3 peptides.
5. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 [[or 2]] comprising three S3 peptides.
6. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 [[or 2]] comprising four S3 peptides.
7. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 [[or 2]] comprising eight S3 peptides.
8. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ wherein at least two of the S3 peptides are separated by a linking sequence.
9. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 8 wherein at least one of the linking sequence is cleavable by protease.
10. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 8 wherein at least one of the linking sequence is cleavable by acid digestion.

11. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 10 wherein the at least one linking sequence comprises Asp-Pro.

12. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 any one of claims 1-7 consisting of the S3 peptides.

13. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 6 which is rS3-4mer (SEQ ID N0 : 9).

14. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 any one of claims 1-13 tagged with a detectable label.

15. (Original) S3 peptide tagged with a detectable label.

16. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 14 or the peptide of claim 15 wherein the label is detectable by fluorescence.

17. (Currently Amended) DNA encoding the polypeptide of claim 1 any one of claims 1-13.

18. (Original) An expression cassette comprising the DNA of claim 17.

19. (Original) A vector comprising the expression cassette of claim 18.

20. (Original) A host cell comprising the DNA of claim 17.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a multimer of S3 peptide, comprising the step of expressing DNA encoding the polypeptide of claim 1 any one of claims 1-13 in a host cell.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of isolating the polypeptide.

23. (Original) A method of producing a polypeptide having a desired number of S3 peptides, comprising the step of expressing in a host cell DNA encoding a polypeptide which comprises S3 peptides in greater number than the desired number, and wherein at least two of the S3 peptides are separated by a cleavable linking sequence; and subjecting the polypeptide to conditions suitable for cleaving the linking sequence to produce the polypeptide having the desired number of S3 peptides while keeping the S3 peptides intact.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of isolating the polypeptide having the desired number of S3 peptides.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 [[or 24]] wherein the conditions suitable for cleaving the linking sequence is acid digestion.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 [[or 24]] wherein the conditions suitable for cleaving the linking sequence comprises proteolytic digestion.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 any one of claims 23-26 wherein the desired number of S3 peptides is four; wherein the polypeptide encoded by the DNA comprises eight S3 peptides; and wherein the cleavable linking sequence occurs between the fourth and fifth S3 peptides in the polypeptide encoded by the DNA.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting LPS-containing bacteria comprising the steps of contacting a sample to be tested for LPS-containing bacteria, with the polypeptide of claim 1 any one of claims 1-13 and detecting binding between LPS and the polypeptide.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for treating endotoxaemia or sepsis comprising the step of administering the polypeptide of claim 1 any one of claims 1-13 to a patient suffering from endotoxaemia or sepsis.

30. (Original) A method for detecting LPS-containing bacteria comprising the step of contacting a sample to be tested for LPS-containing bacteria with the peptide of claim 15, and detecting binding between LPS and the peptide.

31. (Original) A method for detecting LPS-containing bacteria comprising the step of contacting a sample containing LPS- containing bacteria with the polypeptide or peptide of claim 16, and detecting bacteria-associated fluorescence arising from the label.

32. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-14~~ immobilized on a solid medium.

33. (Original) The peptide of claim 15 immobilized on a solid medium.

34. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of ~~claim 32 or the peptide of claim 33~~ wherein the solid medium is agarose.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for removing LPS or LPS-containing bacteria from a sample, comprising the step of contacting the sample with the polypeptide ~~or peptide of claim 32 any one of claims 32-34~~ under conditions which allow binding of LPS-containing bacteria to the polypeptide or the peptide, and obtaining the unbound material which is substantially free of LPS or LPS-containing bacteria.

36. (Original) A commercial package comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-13~~ and instructions for its use in detecting LPS-containing bacteria in a sample.

37. (Currently Amended) A commercial package comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-13~~ and instructions for its use in treating endotoxaemia or sepsis.

38. (Currently Amended) A commercial package comprising the polypeptide ~~or peptide of claim 32 any one of claims 32-34~~ and instructions for its use for removing LPS or LPS-containing bacteria from a sample.